AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Number 495 Published by THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY New York City Sept. 28, 1931

59.57, 52 C (729.4)

A NEW GIANT WAX SCALE FROM HAITI

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The species of coccid described here is one of the largest and most interesting members of the widely distributed genus *Ceroplastes*. It appears to be fairly common in Haiti at certain seasons. Professor T. D.

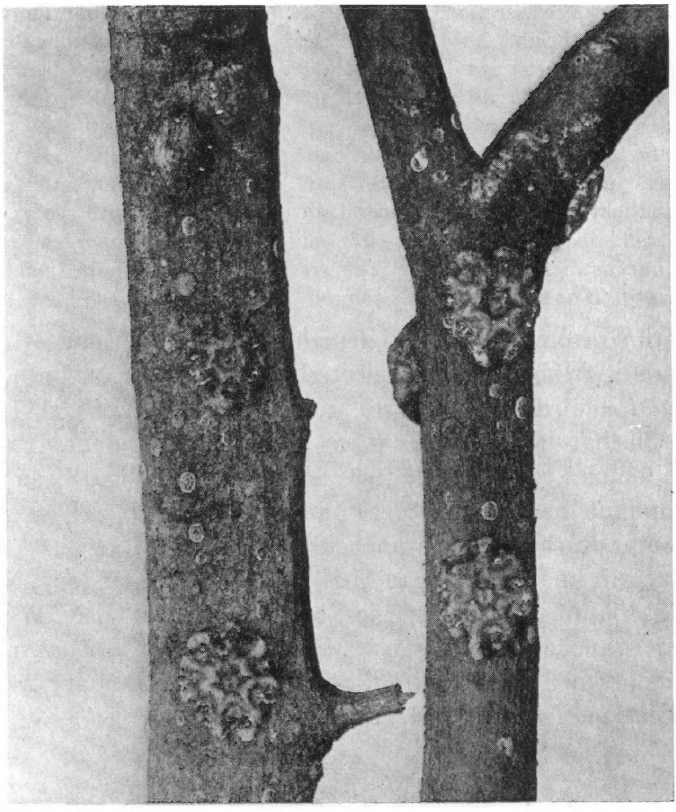

Fig. 1.—Branches of *Ficus rubricosta* infested with *Ceroplastes giganteus* Dozier, about natural size.

A. Cockerell, who kindly checked on the validity of the species, states that he observed a somewhat similar *Ceroplastes* in the Congo Museum in Belgium and that our species might possibly be of African origin.

Ceroplastes giganteus, new species

The species is nearest in size to *Ceroplastes gigas* Cockerell from the Philippines, which measures 17.5 mm., and to *C. vuilleti* Marchal from Senegal, which measures 22 mm. in length, but is totally different in form and coloration. It resembles more closely *C. depressus* Cockerell, described from Jamaica on lignum-vitæ. It is very much smaller, but the pattern of the dorsal wax plates is different.

C. giganteus is a typical *Ceroplastes*. The general appearance of the adult female scale is rather flat, completely covered with a mass of wax, divided into seven distinct wax plates and a central area somewhat depressed, the lateral plates on each side with a streak of white secretion. Measures 14 mm. in length, 11 mm. in width, and from 2 to 3 mm. in height. Its color is a creamy wax with a faint olive or greenish tinge. Old females, after egg deposition, and other old ones, after death, shrink in length to about 12 mm. and become swollen, roundingly elevated, and the segmentation or plates less pronounced.

When boiled in caustic potash solution it renders the liquid a dark violet-black color. The denuded female measures 8.75 mm. in length and 7.50 mm. in width. Its most striking feature is the distinct mesal slit or caudal cleft with the caudal plates large, thick, and opaque. The derm, after boiling, becomes more or less transparent. There are four distinct lateral stigmatic depressions, the bullet-shaped spines numbering about sixty. The antennæ are six-jointed.

Described from eight boiled females mounted on slides in balsam and abundant fresh material collected by the writer on branches of a "Figuier," *Ficus rubricosta* Warb., at Source Cazeau, Haiti, December 3, 1930. On that date the older stages were very abundant. Previously, the adult females, younger stages, and males' cases had been noted as fairly abundant on the same trees on April 14, 1930. These scales are usually found on the higher branches of the tree.

The type is in The American Museum of Natural History, New York City. Material of the same species, collected by Dr. G. N. Wolcott, on the upper branches of a large "Mapou blanc" (*Neobuchia paulinæ* Urban) tree, fifteen miles south of St. Marc, Haiti, January 28, 1927, is in the collection of the Service Technique.